**Seeds Developed by Navdanya Gene Bank**

1689. SHRI K. R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that desi seeds developed by Navdanya Gene Bank's "Beej Bachao Andolan" give higher yields, more fodder and a nutritious output in varying atmospheric conditions as reported in the 'Statesman' dated 2nd March, 1995; and

(b) how far do they compare with seeds of the same grains developed abroad, in terms of their yield, water and fertilizer requirements, and their immunity from diseases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) At present, there is no information about the reported performance of the said varieties.

(b) In view of the position indicated above, the question of comparison does not arise.

**Losses due to Natural Calamities in Tamil Nadu**

1690. SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of loss in terms of rupees, incurred due to natural calamities in Tamil Nadu during the last three years as estimated and informed by the State Government;

(b) what is the amount sanctioned by the Central Government during the same period in this regard; and

(c) what is the amount actually spent by the Government of Tamil Nadu for the rehabilitation of the people affected by the natural calamities, during the same period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) Government of Tamil Nadu have reported the following losses in the State due to natural calamities during the last three years:—

| Year | Loss (Rs. in crores) |
|---|---|
| 1991-92 | 389.00 |
| 1992-93 | 530.00 |
| 1993-94 | 666.00 |

(b) Government of India had released Rs. 29.25 crores each, during the above three years as the Central share of Calamity Relief Fund.

(c) The State Government have reported the following expenditure on relief and rehabilitation measures in the wake of natural calamities during the last three years:—

| Year | Expenditure (Rs. in crores) |
|---|---|
| 1991-92 | 36.05 |
| 1992-93 | 1.06 |
| 1993-94 | 40.75 |

**Production of foodgrains in Gujarat**

1691. SHRI KANAKSINH MOHANSINH MANGROLA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of foodgrains in Gujarat State during 1993-94 and the target fixed for the year 1994-95;

(b) whether Government have taken any steps in increase the production of foodgrains during the next financial year in the State; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) The total production of foodgrains in Gujarat State during 1993-94 was 37.78 lakh tonnes. Targets fixed for 1994-95 is 57.85 lakh tonnes.

(b) and (c) For increasing the productivity and production of foodgrains, crop oriented production programmes viz. Integrated Cereals Development Programme —Rice, Wheat and Coarse Cereals; and National Pulses Development Programme (NPDP) are being implemented. Besides, programmes for increasing the use of fertiliser in low consumption areas and extension of irrigation facilities are being implemented to improve the production of crops.

The Schemes focus on augmenting the availability of critical inputs through subsidised distribution of certified seeds, herbicides, plant protection chemicals, improved farm implements etc. Besides, field demonstrations and farmers training programmes are organised to assist the farmers and improve their skills for adoption of rainfed production technology in respect of maize and millets as well as promoting effective control of weeds through use of herbicides.

**Suggestions by CTRI**

1692. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Tobacco Research Institute (CTRI) has suggested that farmers use more potash fertilizer in tobacco cultivation to reduce tar content of tobacco;

(b) whether CTRI has conducted any experimental programmes to test this finding; and

(c) if so, the details the eof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) The Central Tobacco Research Institute (CTRI) has suggested to the farmers to apply only the recommended dooses of potassic fertilizers as given below:

Northern light soils of Andhra Pradesh 80-120 kg/ha depending upon the availability of potash in soil; Southern light soils of Andhra Pradesh—60 kg/ha; southern black soils of Andhra Pradesh-50 kg/ha and light soils of Karnataka-80 kg/ha.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Recommended doses have given significant reduction of total particulate matter such as smoke nicotine and carbon monoxide by exogenous application to increase leaf potash (K) content to 3.5 to 4.0 per cent. The higher dose has not indicated significant increase in yield. The CTRI has a continuing programme for safer tobacco to reduce tar content.

**CM-12 Variety of Tobacco**

1693. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Tabocco Research Institute (CTRI) has evolved a new variety of tobacco called CM-12 for Northern light soils in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether CM12, can be grown in areas of East and West Godaveri districts in Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The FCV tobacco variety CM-12 is recommended for growing in irrigated conditions and light soil areas of East Godavari, West Godavari districts and Khammam districts of Andhra Pradesh.

**High Pesticide residue of Crops**

1694. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that most of our crops have high pesticide residue:

(b) if so, what steps are proposed to reduce pesticide residue: and

(c) the details thereof?